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**MAYOR EMANUEL INTRODUCES 2018 BUDGET ORDINANCES**

*Ordinance Introductions Include Revenue and Management Ordinances  
which Reform the Municipal Code, Support Additional Safety Measures Protecting Residents,  
and Amend the City's Diverse Set of Revenue*

Mayor Rahm Emanuel today introduced to City Council the 2018 City Budget ordinances as part of his 2018 Budget proposal. The proposed ordinances include reforms to Chicago's taxi and rideshare industries, a first-of-its-kind infrastructure investment for the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), changes to licenses and fees in order to support additional investments in restaurant and environment inspectors, and amendments to improve the citywide building code, among others.

"The 2018 budget ordinances introduced today provide necessary updates and changes to support Chicago's growing industries, while ensuring that easy and affordable access to public transportation remains an option to all residents," said Mayor Emanuel. "These increased protections for residents also ensure that the Chicago Municipal Code is accurate, informative, and up to date with the needs of the City."

The City has made a number of reforms to modernize and support employment in Chicago's taxi and rideshare industries, ensuring residents have access to reliable transit options. These ordinance reforms include removing barriers of employment for drivers, reducing burdensome and dated requirements on drivers and companies, and increasing safety measures and protections for residents who use taxi and rideshare services. Through the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP), the City has solicited feedback from members of both industries to support their employees and to better serve their customers, while maintaining the City's goal of security for all passengers.

The 2018 Budget also includes a first-of-its-kind infrastructure investment to help support CTA investments in infrastructure upgrades to its train and bus lines. Chicago is proposing a phased in fee of 15 cents in 2018 and an additional five cents in 2019. Chicago will become the first city in the nation to institute a fee on the rideshare industry dedicated to fund mass transit capital improvements and other transit capital improvements. It is estimated that the 15 cent increase will generate \$16 million dedicated solely to the CTA to modernize transportation for every Chicago resident.

As part of the ordinance introduction, BACP is proposing to adjust its restaurant licensing fee structure to pay for the increased number of sanitarians performing critical food safety inspections in Chicago. Even after implementation, Chicago's fee structure will still be less than those of nearby

suburbs like Evanston and Oak Park and other large cities, including Los Angeles and Houston. The new tiered payment structure provides additional relief for small businesses. Establishments that are less than 1,000 square feet in size will see no increase in licensing fees. Fees for larger establishments will increase in proportion to their size. The top tier, establishments over 10,000 square feet, will increase by \$225/year. The new fees will also be pegged to inflation. Changes to inspection processes will also further incentivize establishments to ensure they consistently meet health code requirements. Any food establishment's initial inspection will remain free, while the Chicago Department of Public Health's (CDPH) re-inspection fee, leveraged only against eateries that fail the initial inspection, will increase from \$50 to \$100.

The City is also introducing increase fines against polluters and updates to the environmental fees that have not changed in years, while ensuring no new costs for residents. These reforms will support the expansion of the city's environmental inspection program led by CDPH.

Ordinance changes also include additional protections for residents, clarifications for businesses, and added enforcement measures against illegal contractors through the Department of Buildings (DOB). These reforms include clarifications to the City's Building Permit Applications and a centralized reviewing process, among other updates and clarifications to modernize the code. The DOB will also update and reform sign requirements for businesses, in an effort to clarify regulations with owners and business renters. DOB will also increase and standardize the Chicago Building Code fine structure to regulate fines across violations, and to address compliance issues with owners.

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